



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1223/CP1211 Bandon 110kV and Dunmanway 110kV Station Works - [Exempted Development] County Cork

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('the Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, if the CP1223/CP1211 Bandon 110kV and Dunmanway 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development comprises station bay works at Dunmanway Station and Bandon Station. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundary of the stations.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The nearest European site to Bandon 110kV Station is Courtmacsherry Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001230)¹ which is approximately 12km from the substation boundary. The closest Special Protection Area (SPA) is Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (site code 004219)² which is 12.7km to the south. There is one other SPA within 20km of the Development which is Seven Heads SPA (site code 004191)³ and is 20km to the south-west. There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the Development site with hydrological connectivity to these or any other European sites.

The nearest European site to Dunmanway 110kV Station is Bandon River SAC (site code 002171)⁴ which is approximately 455m from the substation boundary. There is no ecological pathway or hydrological link between the Development site and the SAC given the qualifying interest (QI) species would not be affected by any potential impacts due to the distance to the waterbody and as they are confined to the aquatic environment. The closest SPA is Clonakilty Bay SPA (site code 004081)⁵ which is 17.9km from the Development site. There is one other SPA within 20 km of the Development which is Gearagh SPA (site code 004109)⁶ and is 17.6km from the Development site. There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the Development site with hydrological connectivity to European sites.

¹ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC 001230. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Courtmacsherry Bay SPA 004219. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Seven Heads SPA [004191]. First Order Site specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Bandon River SAC 002171. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

⁵ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Clonakilty Bay SPA 004081. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁶ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for The Gearagh SPA [004109]. First Order Site specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Both of the Development sites lie within the maximum foraging distance of 15-20km reported for special conservation interest (SCI) species⁷. Notwithstanding this, all works will be carried out within the existing station boundaries comprising hardstanding and electrical installations, areas containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At the distances stated above, the SPAs identified lie beyond a precautionary impact buffer zone for visual and noise disturbance, meaning that there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs when occurring within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the relatively minor nature of the proposed works means that any noise disturbance of SCI species occurring outside of the SPA boundaries will be immaterial.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, AECOM on behalf of EirGrid has made an AA Screening Determination that an AA Natura Impact Statement (NIS), effectively a more detailed assessment of potential impacts on European sites, is not required. Based on objective evidence, the project will not result in LSEs on any European sites, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects.

This Determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the Development, including the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



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⁷ Scottish Natural Heritage (June 2016) Assessing connectivity with Special protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. 4pp.